

## REMARKS/ARGUMENT

In response to the restriction requirement, Claim 16 is cancelled from this application as being drawn to an unelected invention.

Rejection under 35 USC §103

Claims 13 and 15 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) Ramsey (5,858,195 and 6,376,181) in view of Parce (6,458,259). Applicants traverse the rejection.

Base Claim 13 explicitly recites the step of flowing a fluid to be analyzed through a sample injector, wherein the sample injector is defined (p. 5, 15-18 and FIG. 2) as comprised of at least two elements combined in a series arrangement, and wherein each element comprises a container having an inlet and an outlet end and filled with a dielectric material to form a porous bed within the container.

Now here does Ramsey ('195) or Ramsey ('181) or any combination thereof discuss, disclose or suggest the step of flowing a fluid to be analyzed through the claimed sample injector. A prima facie case of obviousness, requiring that all the claim limitations be taught or suggested by the prior art and that the prior art must disclose the invention as a whole, not having been made Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of Claim 13.

Claim 15, dependent from base Claim 13, further recites that the step of applying a hydraulic pressure is by a hydraulic electrokinetic pump. In an earlier Office Action (05/21/2003, paper no. 5), Examiner stated explicitly "Ramsey and Ramsey or Ramsey and Parce each fail to teach a hydraulic electrokinetic pump" as recited by Claim 15. Therefore,

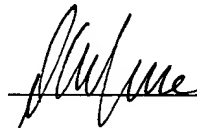
the rejection of Claim 15, wherein the elements of the claimed sample injector comprise a series arrangement of hydraulic electrokinetic pumps, under Ramsey, Ramsey in view of Ramsey and Parce is misapplied and Applicants request reconsideration and allowance.

#### CONCLUSION

The rejection of claims 13 and 15 having been overcome, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued.

Respectfully submitted,

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